

Pastor Richard Yun

Title: The Hope of Christmas

Text: I John 5: 11-12

“And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life”

Introduction

- The one who has the Son has it all.
- The gladness of Christmas is Hope! The Coming of Christ, which is the message of Christmas brings tremendous hope.

I. The Coming of Christ gives us a living picture of who God is (Colossians 1: 15-16)

The Bible says, “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible...” (Col 1:15-16)

It means we now know what God is like. This is what we mean by the incarnation — God came to earth wrapped in a human body. The God of heaven came to live among us that we might know what He is truly like.

And because Christ showed us what God was like, we want to be like him. **We have been transformed by his grace and renewed by his love.**

II. The Coming of Jesus means our sins can be forgiven (1 John 3:1; 2 Cor 3:18)

The Bible says, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1)

We are children of God because we have been forgiven as an act of the grace Jesus Christ made possible by his atoning death. But this is more than forgiveness. **It brings about a transformation in our lives.**

Christ came to not only cleanse our hearts, but to change our hearts.

“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

III. The Coming of Jesus means we have the Hope of Heaven (2 Peter 3:13)

Heaven was made possible by Jesus. The Bible says, “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable” (1 Corinthians 15:19). But because Jesus came, all that has changed. **We live in joyful anticipation of what is yet to come.**

Christmas means that Christ has given us the gift of heaven. As the Bible says, “But in keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness” (2 Peter 3:13).

CONCLUSION

- Because Jesus came, we know what God is like.
- We experience forgiveness for our sins and the transformation of our hearts and minds.
- We have received the promise of heaven and eternal life.